

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 083334
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DRAFTED BY HA/ORM:JBROH-KAHN:BA
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 083334

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: JAPANESE ATTITUDE TOWARD INDOCHINESE REFUGEES

REF. A. GENEVA 1143; B. STATE 17251 (NOTAL)

1. MARCH 15 NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE BY ANDREW MALCOLM
REPORTS SHIPS WHICH PICK UP BOAT REFUGEES WILL NOT BE ABLE
TO LAND THEM EVEN TEMPORARILY IN JAPAN UNLESS GOVERNMENT
OF HOME COUNTRY OF SHIP PROVIDES WRITTEN GUARANTEE THAT IT
WILL ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR RESETTLING REFUGEES ELSE-
WHERE. ARTICLE ADDS THAT JAPANESE SHIPS MUST SIMILARLY
OBTAIN SUCH A GUARANTEE FROM UNHCR.

2. ARTICLE CONTINUES THAT KATSUYOSHI YAMANO, CHIEF OF
IMMIGRATION BUREAU ENTRY DIVISION, TOLD MALCOLM THAT GOJ
POLICY HAD NOT CHANGED SINCE SEPT 13 SPEECH IN TOKYO BY
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FONMIN HATOYAMA PROMISING "APPRECIABLE MEASURE" REGARDING
ACCEPTANCE OF REFUGEES IN JAPAN. YAMANO QUOTED AS ADDING
THERE NO PROSPECTS FOR CHANGE.

3. MALCOLM ALSO NOTES THAT NO REFUGEES HAVE MADE IT TO
JAPAN SINCE OCT. HE ADDS THAT HITOSHI MISE OF UNHCR IN
JAPAN SAID GOJ HAS PROMISED INCREASE ITS CONTRIBUTION TO

1.5 MILLION DOLLARS IN NEXT FISCAL YEAR.

4. CANADIAN EMBASSY OFFICER TOLD US GOC HAD SEEN ARTICLE, WAS QUERYING ITS EMBASSY IN TOKYO ABOUT GOJ POLICY, AND WONDERED WHAT U.S. REACTION WAS TO POLICY.

5. REQUEST POST CONFIRM WHETHER GOJ POLICY IS IN FACT TO REFUSE LANDING OF BOAT REFUGEES UNLESS AND UNTIL THIRD COUNTRIES GUARANTEE THEIR RESETTLEMENT. ALSO APPRECIATE LEARNING WHETHER GOJ PLANS INCREASE CONTRIBUTION TO UNHCR OR MAKE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION FOR INDOCHINESE BOAT REFUGEES. REF A INDICATES THIS MAY BE UNDER CONSIDERATION BUT HAS NOT YET HAPPENED, WHILE REF B STATES THAT AMERICAN AFFAIRS BUREAU DIRECTOR GENERAL TOSHIJIRO NAKAJIMA TOLD ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE THAT GOJ HAD RECENTLY RAISED CONTRIBUTION TO UNHCR. WOULD APPRECIATE CLARIFICATION. COOPER

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Message Attributes

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